Time For Us to Clean Up Garbage

Digital Journal

March 11, 2009 Wednesday 11:26 AM EST

Copyright 2009 Newstex LLC
All Rights Reserved
Newstex Web Blogs
Copyright 2009 Digital Journal

Length: 882 words

Body

Mar. 11, 2009 (Digital Journal delivered by Newstex) --

Everywhere we go we leave a trash trail in our wake. A new report released recently found that ocean and sea floors were littered with 6.8 million pounds of trash.

Its enough to turn one's stomach, and there no polite way of saying it: People, worldwide, are &*^$#@ing slobs and dont deserve to live on this beautiful blue planet, because we are lousy caretakers who dont seem to do anything but louse it up with garbage.

Of course, thats a rash generalization, but nonetheless, seemingly true, because while there are people who are devoted to keeping the planet green, blue and beautiful, they are vastly out-numbered by the slobs of the world.

For proof, in a single day last year, 400,000 volunteers around the world collected 6.8 million pounds of trash from sea shores, ocean floors and river bottoms, according to a report released on Tuesday by the Ocean Conservancy, following its 23rd Coastal Cleanup that took place last September.

If the report isnt enough to convince you that thoughtless, selfish, lazy slobs rule, just look down when stepping off a curb, walking through a park, entering a public restroom or any place that isnt your home.

One hundred-four countries participated in the cleanup effort with half the 400,000 volunteers coming from the United States.

Vikki Spruill, president and CEO of the Ocean Conservancy, said:

"Our ocean is sick, and our actions have made it so. The evidence turns up every day in dead and injured marine life, littered beaches that discourage tourists, and choked ocean ecosystems."

Brian Skoloff, the writer of the Associated Press story that appeared in the Los Angeles Daily News, said:

??illustrating that careless people are discarding trash just about everywhere, with much of it eventually finding an aquatic home?

To say that people are careless doesnt come close to describing our garbage-tossing nature.

Time For Us to Clean Up Garbage

Ever give a thought to why public restrooms are filthy, disgusting places that make you feel like you have to take a shower after leaving one?

Its because they are for the publics use and people feel like they can do anything they please, anywhere they please, because its not their home.

While its true that some people are as big of slobs in their own homes as they are any place else, there's something about public bathrooms that makes people feel they have a license to do any sloppy, disgusting thing they want¦like throwing trash on the floor, leaving the water running and not flushing.

Faulty plumbing and lack of maintenance is also part of the problem.

Of course, there wouldnt be such a great need for maintenance if people would clean up after themselves and not flush things down the john that they shouldnt.

With all the trash cans around in parks, on beaches, on sidewalks there isnt an excuse in the world for anyone tossing trash anywhere except in a can.

And in case there isnt a trash receptacle at their fingertips, they can use their pockets, use the plastic bag theyre carrying, use their purse or briefcase, carry it with them until they find a garbage can, or take it home and toss it in their own can. As a last resort, they can use the floor of their car¦everyone else does, but like everyone else, dont clean out your car or empty the ashtrays on the blacktop of the parking lot.

And speaking of ashtrays, as an E-vil smoker, I hate to mention this stat from the report, but I will.

Of the 11.4 million pounds of trash they collected worldwide, which weighted a total of 6.8 million pounds, there were 3.2 million cigarette butts, which is kind of a misnomer, because the tobacco and the paper are biodegradable¦its the filters that arent, but they could be if they were manufactured to biodegrade.

We E-vil smokers could field strip our butts and stick them in our pocket. Of course, then it would get washed with our jeans, not to be found again until the next time we stick our hand in our pocket, but theyll be the cleanest filters in the world.

It would be interesting to know how they came up with an exact count of the number of butts they collected. Did they collect them separately and put them in bags marked œbutts only?

Did they count out how many butts are in an eighth- or quarter-pound of butts and then multiply by the total number of pounds? Or is it really a guestimate?

The report also said there were 1.4 million plastic bags, 942,000 food containers and wrappers, 937,000 caps and lids, and 26,585 tires among the throw-aways that were retrieved for proper disposal.

The bottom line is, that as much as industry pollutes, if we -- collectively -- did our part to keep our planet, our home, as clean as possible, a huge dent could be made in pollution.

A few people cant do it. Everyone must do it. No excuses.

The next cleanup is scheduled for September 19.

It will be interesting to see if Ocean Conservancys message is getting through to thick-headed slobs, and fewer pound of trash are collected.

If they collect as much or more than the last cleanup, maybe they need to do it every month. Trash slobs might need constant monitoring and trash nannies to follow them wherever they go.

The Earth is our home; its as much if not more than our home than any edifice we build around us to reside in. Keep it clean.
Newstex ID: DIJO-0001-32846263

Notes

The views expressed on blogs distributed by Newstex and its re-distributors ("Blogs on Demand®") are solely the author's and not necessarily the views of Newstex or its re-distributors. Posts from such authors are provided "AS IS", with no warranties, and confer no rights. The material and information provided in Blogs on Demand® are for general information only and should not, in any respect, be relied on as professional advice. No content on such Blogs on Demand® is "read and approved" before it is posted. Accordingly, neither Newstex nor its re-distributors make any claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained therein or linked to from such blogs, nor take responsibility for any aspect of such blog content. All content on Blogs on Demand® shall be construed as author-based content and commentary. Accordingly, no warranties or other guarantees will be offered as to the quality of the opinions, commentary or anything else offered on such Blogs on Demand®. Reader's comments reflect their individual opinion and their publication within Blogs on Demand® shall not infer or connote an endorsement by Newstex or its re-distributors of such reader's comments or views. Newstex and its re-distributors expressly reserve the right to delete posts and comments at its and their sole discretion.

Load-Date: March 11, 2009